

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love, and service"

Worship 10 am
Education Hour –

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP: PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, AND SERVICE



Pastor
Rev. Daven Oskvig
Office Administrator
Sarah Wachowski
Minister of Music
Nicholas Steltzer
Financial Secretary
Doris Schanzlin
Custodian
Michael Andolina



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Phone: 716-839-2460

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9 am–2 pm

Office Closed Monday, September 4

October/November 2023
Caller Deadline
Wednesday, September 13
to
bbmitch@verizon.net
Questions? Contact Barb Mitchell
(716)839-2435 or
bbmitch@verizon.net



Photo by
Brad Loiger

Rev. Jim Pollard Sally Pollard Rev. Drew Heitzenrater Rev. Daven Oskvig



While the new year begins on January 1 and the lectionary year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, for most the rhythm of the year is set early in life and remains. It is dictated by school year, football season (Go Bills!), and the 'final' summer holiday, Labor Day. Many churches have

celebrations around this time with such names as Rally Day and Welcome Back / Welcome Home Sunday. I, however, don't like to think of it as a resuming and returning time. Rather I feel that this is a new beginning time. Certainly, there is a restoring of activities in the life of the church as you will see in this Caller. The Choir returns, Children's Ministry restarts, Spiritual Formation opportunities resume, and Ministry and Administrative Teams revert to their normal schedule to name a few. It is so much more, however, than a simple resumption of normal activities. As the prophet Isaiah says, "Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it?" (43:19 - NLT). We are encouraged not to accept the monotony of schedules and programming that is or always has been, but to lean ahead into what can be. As part of that, **we are having an imagining / dreaming time following worship on September 10.** Our hope and ambition is to understand the ministry God is calling us to in the name of Christ. It is to discern the answer of the who, what, and where of our ministry in the year ahead as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in the how.

Yes, gone are vacations and long days, but fall has arrived with a call to action! Let our prayer be that this community reflects God's love for us in our love for God and one another. May we strive to put Christ central in all we do seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance as we move ahead "making connections and offer opportunities in faith, love, and service."

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Daven*

September Birthdays



Jane Darling.....	3	Jonathan Miller.....	19
Pastor BJ.....	5	Sandra Paddock.....	20
Al Wrisley	6	Beth Reilly-Brown.....	20
Lianne Oskvig	7	Hildegard Webber	20
Bim Rowlands.....	9	Lisa Malpica	24
June Gilbert	10	Nora Townsend Wilber	24
Patti Bechtel	11	Danielle Keller	25
Kathy Brunner	11	Barbara Carier	26
Nancy Annunziata	16	Tom Swist	26
Jim Pollard.....	18	Jean Wood.....	27

September Anniversaries



Herb & Jane Darling	September 08, 1956
Tom & Kathy Weaver	September 08, 1984
Jeremiah & Michelle Cordero	September 12, 2014
Herb & Nora Townsend Wilber.....	September 21, 1990
Greg & Phyllis Maliken	September 22, 1979
Frank & Linda Parete.....	September 27, 1975

If you would like to add your birthday and/or anniversary to the list, please contact the church office at (716) 839-2460 or Barb Mitchell at(716) 839-2435



We wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Ball upon the death of her husband Richard Ball , on July 27, 2023.



Dear Christ Church family,

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your prayers, support, and expressions of sympathy during and following Dave's long struggle with his health. He is at peace now, for which I am grateful, but he will be deeply missed. A special thank you to Pastor Daven for giving his time and support to Dave and me while giving up time from his well deserved vacation. We are blessed to have such a caring, supportive minister. A big thank you to Peg Bermudez and Sarah Wachowski for all that they did to prepare for the service, and to the Hospitality Team and Elizabeth Circle for providing their service and desserts at the reception. And, of course, a grateful thank you to all who came to celebrate Dave's life with my family and me. It was truly a Celebration of Dave's Life. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful, caring congregation of friends.

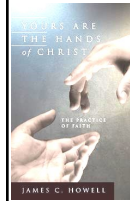
With Thanks and love,
Barb Mitchell



Church Office Hours to resume regular hours, Monday September 11, 9am— 2pm

Choir will sing during the service on Sunday September 3 and resume rehearsals on Tuesday, September 5 at 7pm followed by rehearsals on Wednesdays starting on September 13.

AOL: Adult Opportunities for Learning



Yours Are the Hands of Christ by James C. Howell
Sundays, September 17 – November 26th
in the Wesley Room following worship
Jesus didn't "become flesh" so we could *feel* different. He came to this world so we will *be* different.

Often our spirituality seems invisible and mute to a hurting world. Many of us simply internalize faith out of fear, feelings of inadequacy, or choice. A faithful response to discipleship's call, however, is both inward and outward.

Through Howell's study, you'll find ways to apply faith to your daily life and make evident your commitment to Christ. By considering all that Jesus did with his hands as a teacher, a healer, and a compassionate servant, Howell challenges readers to be the hands and feet and love of Christ in the world.

Facilitators: Rev. Oskvig, Beth Reilly, Janet Cook,
Peggy Bermudez

Thirstaid



The Girl's Still Got It by Liz Curtis Higgs
Thursdays, September 21 – October 2
1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room

"Walk with Ruth as she travels from Moab to Bethlehem, certain of her calling, yet uncertain of her future. Hold Naomi's hand and watch love put the pieces of her broken life back together. And

hang out with Boaz, their kinsman-redeemer, who blesses both women and honors God at every turn."

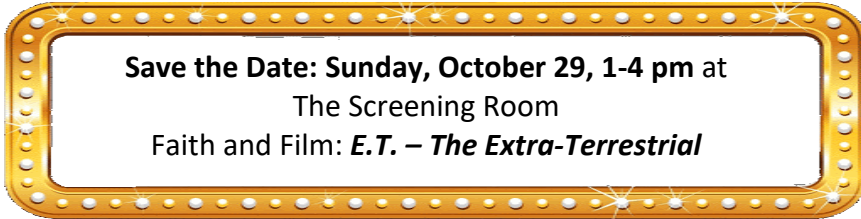
"Think of it as time travel without gimmicks, gizmos, or a DeLorean: a novel approach to Bible study that leaps from past to present, gleaning timeless truths that will draw you nearer to the One who knows you fully, loves you completely, and holds you close to His heart."

Facilitator: Diane Klenk

SPIRITUAL INFORMATION TEAM

Exploring Sunday Scriptures: posted on YouTube and an in-person opportunity on Tuesdays at Noon - Join Rev. Oskvig in a conversation about the scriptures which will be explored in the sermon on the following Sunday.

Feasting on the Word with Rev. Oskvig – posted Wednesdays on our website: www.christchurchamherst.org



(Formerly Family Faith Journey) Our first meeting will be instruction in the *Bible Times* in the art room #21, (located downstairs) on **September 10th** at 11am.
11 am - 12 Noon 2nd and 3rd Sundays of every month.
All are welcome!

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK AND DISCUSSION: Dreams for the Coming Year - Sunday, September 10, 2023



Potluck Dinner What do you imagine for Christ Church in the coming months and years? What do you think our congregation could be doing to better connect with our community? We need your input and ideas! Please join Church Council on **Sunday, September 10, 2023, immediately following worship** in Crafts Hall for an open discussion on how we can live into our mission of making connections and offering opportunities for faith, love, and service. This will also be a potluck, so **please bring your ideas and a dish to pass!**



Little Food Pantry

Canned proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Rice, Ham)

Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Peanut Butter
Oatmeal Canisters
Pasta/Pasta Sauce
Juices
Toothpaste
Toilet Paper



Request for September

Pasta
Spaghetti Sauce
Soup (not chicken noodle)
Oatmeal
Cereal

All donations may be placed in the bins in the office hallway.
Thank you for helping those in need.



Summer Happenings at Christ Church



UWF Church Picnic'23

Photos by Peggy Bermudez and Brad Loliger



Tom guessed the closest on ALL the guessing games and took ALL the prizes!!!



Circle of Joy at Canalside in July

Toni Neidel at the Hearts Mobile Food Pantry dedication



STEWARDSHIP TEAM

As Summer slowly transitions to Autumn we hope you will look for ways to enjoy the sights and sounds which accompany the changing season. The beauty of the various colored leaves which grace the trees in our area are a sight to behold for sure! There are a host of parks and refuges to which you can venture to enjoy the sounds of birds, wild animals, and the wind in the trees

- Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary in Hamburg
- Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Basom (Genesee County)
- Beaver Hollow in Java Center (Wyoming County)
- Stella Niagara Nature Preserve in Lewiston
- Akron State Park
- Letchworth State Park
- Allegheny State Park

May you take the time to revel in God's majesty!



Fall is also the time when we start planning for the New Year and what we hope to accomplish going forward. Our Outreach and Mission teams look to continue their programs and as always, we look forward to welcoming Community Groups as we continue to Make Connections and Offer Opportunities for Faith, Love, and Service. We can only do this if we have adequate resources, so we ask that you begin to ponder and pray about how you can support our Stewardship Campaign. You will be hearing more about this as our plans come together, and we thank you for your past support!



Missions of the Month

Opportunities to share ourselves, our talents and our resources with others

Save the Date-Make a Difference Day- Saturday September 23

Make a Difference Day is almost here. There will be several ways in which you can help. The Shred it Truck will be here from 9-12. Crafting for a Cause will be there. We will be collecting food for the Little Food Pantry and Hearts Mobile Food Pantry and gently used winter coats, to name a few.

The Bottle Bin has arrived

By putting your cans and bottles in the Hearts for the Homeless bin, you are supporting their mobile food kitchen, their food pantry, and their work in building relationships and sharing the love of Christ. Hearts receives 8c per container.



The bin is located in our parking lot.

Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Food Pantry

The Mobile Food pantry, located in the church parking lot, has arrived and has been open for operation for a few weeks. Volunteers are still being sought to help run the pantry from 12:30-4:30 every Monday. You can sign up as often as you like.

Crafting for a Cause

You are invited to join us on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 9am for our first meeting. Our Fall project will be making Baby blankets for the Maternal Stress Free Zone.



We Need You! An Invitation to Serve on a Christ Church Team

Would you like to become more involved in leadership of Christ Church, or the opportunity to connect with fellow church members outside of Sunday morning worship? Consider joining one of our teams! If you have any interest in joining any of the below teams, please reach out to Pastor Daven at

daveno@christchurchamherst.org.

- Archives Team
- Caller Team
- Children's Ministry Team
- Finance Team
- Hospitality Team
- Library Team
- Memorials Team
- Mental Health Team
- Memorials Team
- Outreach Team
- Prayer Team
- Spiritual Formation Team
- Staff-Parish Relations Team
- Trustees
- Visitation Team
- Worship Team / Altar Guild



God Moments

Have you had a moment which just captured your imagination, made you slow down and appreciate something, an encounter which moved you? Some people call these "God moments" when an experience moves us and helps us to see more clearly. Pastor Daven tries to capture this through the Weekly Update and in Facebook messages. He is looking for others to share their experiences with him so that they can be included in one of those formats. Please reach out to him if you have something to share!

VOLUNTEER



Christ Church is looking for volunteers to help with ushering, assist with offering, and help with communion.

If interested, please contact **Geoff Hill** at 716-316-1522 or email at gejnhill@aol.com.



Mobile Food Pantry Express
Christ Church Parking Lot
Every Monday 12:30 pm-4:30 pm
They are still looking for volunteers!

If you wish to help, please take a flyer from the sanctuary or café, or scan the QR code to pre-register as a volunteer.

Hospitality Team needs Greeters and Café volunteers for Sunday mornings.
(See Hospitality Team article for more information.)

LEADERSHIP

Every year we look for those willing to share their time and talents serving in leadership at Christ Church. This past year each of our different Administrative and Ministry Teams shared the work they do on behalf of Christ Church hoping to inform and inspire those who might be interested in serving. We are now looking for those ready to step up and step into these roles for 2024. If you would be willing to serve, please reach out to Pastor Daven or Peggy Bermudez.

Missions of the Month

Little Food Pantry

Please consider adding an item to your grocery list for our Little Food Pantry and bring it to church with you. The most needed items are Canned Fruit, Canned proteins:(Tuna, Chicken, Ham) Canned Soups, Peanut Butter, Canned Veggies, Oatmeal Canisters, Pasta, Toothpaste, and Toilet Paper.

Thank you!

HOSPITALITY TEAM

The ministry of the Hospitality Team is to make Christ Church a welcoming place for our congregation, visitors, and all the community groups that fill our building through the week. On Sunday mornings, the team coordinates the greeters who welcome all to worship at Christ Church and the Café (coffee and refreshments) following worship.

We need Greeters and Café volunteers for Sunday mornings.

Members of the team will be available to guide you. If you can help, please contact a member of the Hospitality

Team: *Mary Ball, Barb Critoph, Donna Hammond, Pam Lopez, Toni Neidel, or Peggy Bermudez.*



FINANCE TEAM

Thank you all so much for your faithful giving over the summer months. We have been able to keep up with all our bills! The 2nd Sunday Offerings are as follows:

June: Durham AME for Formula: \$294.00 plus formula offering

July: Hearts for the Homeless: \$181.00

Aug: Seneca Street After School Program: \$205.00

On Sunday, October 1, there will be an offering taken for World Communion Sunday.

Thank you all for all your very generous gifts!

CUMC Finance Team

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
Saturday, September 23, 2023 9:00 am – noon



We will be gathering items for:


**Christ Church Little Free Food Pantry
 Non-Perishable Food Items**



Clothing, Shoes, Blankets


**Christ Church Helping Hands Lending Closet
 Canes, Walkers, Wheelchairs, Shower Chairs
 (Clean and in good condition)**





Team Activities:
Crafting for a Cause

**Make baby quilts for
 Durham's Maternal Stress-Free Zone**





Document Shredding
 Safely destroy documents containing
 sensitive information.

Volunteer Sign-ups will be posted in the Cafe

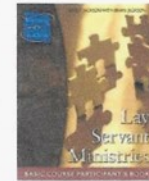
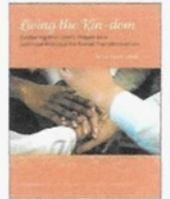


Niagara Frontier District Board of Laity invites you to
Catch the Spirit Discipleship Gathering
Sat., September 23, 2023
Clarence United Methodist Church
 10205 Greiner Rd., Clarence, NY

Our Theme for 2023 is "Together"
Carried over from Annual Conference
Scripture is John 13:34

Flyers with registration information will be available soon.

The importance for UWF is that if you can't attend Mission u in Fayetteville August 17-19, 2023, you have another chance to experience the mission study at Catch the Spirit. Peggy Bermudez will be leading an afternoon session on *Living the Kin-dom, Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation.*



Cathie Phelps will be leading the Basic Lay Servant course if you have church members (male or female) who would like to begin the Lay Servant journey. This is a whole day class which will meet again after September 23 to complete the Basic Lay Servant course. Textbook will need to be purchased.

- Other workshops currently scheduled will be offered either half or whole day:
- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Visitation Ministry - | Rev. Becky Naber |
| Safe Sanctuary Training - | Hap Skellen, District Lay Leader |
| Meet the Wesley's | Rev. Cheryl Brown |
| What is Prayer? | Rev. Jean Edmister |
| Wesleyan Theology (Advanced) | Rev Lisa Taylor |
| Lay Ministry Course—will have additional meetings) | |
| Imagine No Racism General | Charles Syms, Laity |
| Conversation - | |
| Childrens Ministry - | Deacon Deb Coatsworth |
| (focusing on when you have few children over a wide age span) | |

Cost for the whole day is \$25 and includes worship, food, lots of fellowship. Watch the District newsletter for the registration form.



CUMC's book club will return from summer break on September 8th at 11am in the Wesley Room. We look forward to seeing everyone again and hearing about the books they have read over the summer.

After the September meeting, we will meet the FIRST Friday of every month at 11 am. The meetings are very casual, with everyone sharing a little about a book they have read during the past month. As always, we would love to see some new faces around the table!



United Women in Faith

Niagara Frontier District United Women in Faith



Annual Meeting
Living the Kin Dom
Kenmore United Methodist Church
32 Landers Road
Kenmore, NY 14217

Saturday, September 16, 2023

9:00 Doors Open, Registration, Book Giveaway, Resource Table
9:00 AM Brunch

10:00 Worship, Keynote Speaker, Business Meeting
(Offering is designated for Mission Giving)

Registration (includes Brunch): **\$10.00 due by September 1st**

Speaker: Sheri Scavone, CEO WNY Women's Foundation



Live-stream also available on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/@kenmoreumc2504>

Save the Dates:

Sunday, October 8, 10:00 am – UWF Sunday and Children's Sabbath

Saturday, October 21, 2:00 pm – UWF Tea

CIRCLE NEWS



Elizabeth Circle will meet at church to carpool to Niawanda Park for a walk down by the river on Tuesday, September 12 at 1pm (weather permitting.)

A Report from the Upper New York 2023 Conference June 1-3, 2023 in Syracuse, New York

By Brad Loliger, Church Council Chair



Peggy Bermudez, Pastor Daven, and I attended the 2023 Annual Conference of the Upper New York Annual Conference, now known as *United Methodists of Upper New York*. This was the first annual conference led by our new Bishop, Héctor A. Burgos Núñez. This was my first

experience with Annual Conference, and I want to share some reflections with the membership of Christ Church.

One of the most powerful experiences was the worship and ordination ceremony; it was wonderful to see newly ordained clergy, and the joy on their faces as they received their stoles from the bishop, surrounded by friends and family.

As you can imagine, there is much business to be taken care of at Annual Conference. We voted on disaffiliation for many churches, who are seeking to leave the United Methodist Church. All the disaffiliation votes passed. The process is not yet complete, and these congregations still have many hoops to jump through, including forming new 501(c)(3)s and/or affiliating with a new denomination, possibly the Global Methodist Church. While the theme of 2023 Annual Conference was "Together!" it was clear to me that we are at a turning point in the history of the United Methodist Church.

There will be much more to come as we prepare for the United Methodist Church General Conference, taking place from April 23 - May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina.



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Worship 10a	4  Office Closed	5 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) Church Council 7p Choir 7p	6 Feasting on the Word (on website) Zumba & Barre 6p	7	8 Books We Have Loved 11a	9 Zumba 9a Crafting for a Cause 9a GBYO Day Retreat 1p
10 Worship 10a CUMC Kids Place 11a GBYO 2p	11 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p UWF Leadership Team 11a GBYO 6p	12 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) Elizabeth Circle 1p Roswell Grief Support 6:30p Finance Team 7p Trustees 7:30p	13 Feasting on the Word (on website) Stonecroft NCWC Luncheon 10a Zumba & Barre 6p Choir 7p Deadline for Oct/Nov Caller	14 SPRT 7p Bel Canto 4:30p	15	16 Zumba 9a Niagara Frontier District UWF Annual Meeting 9am
17 Worship 10a AOL 11a CUMC Kids Place 11a GBYO 2p	18 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p GBYO 6p	19 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) Roswell Grief Support 6:30p Outreach Team 7p	20 Feasting on the Word (on website) Zumba & Barre 6p Choir 7p	21 Thirstaid 1p Bel Canto 4:30p 	22	23 Zumba 9a Catch the Spirit MADD (Make a Difference Day) 9-noon
24 Worship 10a AOL 11a GBYSO 2:p	25 Hearts Food Pantry Express 12:30p GBYO 6p	26 Exploring Sunday Scriptures-Noon (in person and on line) Hospitality Team 7p	27 Feasting on the Word (on website) Zumba & Barre 6p Choir 7p	28 Thirstaid 1p Bel Canto 4:30p	29	30 Zumba 9a GBYO 10a